



The AFREPRENUER

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TALENT

FEATURE ARTICLE
*The African Youth: An
Untapped Resource*

ANATABA Kyorku

Civil Engineer and founder of Uppa Ghana Limited, who is making her mark in the Geotechnical Engineering space in Ghana.

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Editor's note



Let talk about the issue of locus of control. To what extent do you believe your actions determine your level success or failure? Or you think that other external factors beyond your control are often to blame?

How often do you ask yourself,
“What can I do to improve my situation?”

Then look within to see the strengths you have that can help change your story. Or are you someone who instead thinks along the lines of

“When will my situation change?”

Meaning you are waiting for some magical solution to come from elsewhere. The big question becomes where exactly do you expect to get the answer? I wonder.

Here is some food for thought, How long do YOU intend to allow ‘external forces’ to control and limit your growth? What can YOU do differently today to change your circumstances for the better? At the end of the day, it all comes down to you. Be proactive and take charge of your life. The truth is life is not a balanced equation, so deal with it. You can either spend your days trying to figure out why life is not fair or you can man-up and look for ways to create your own opportunities. Start small you will grow from there, stay in your lane and celebrate the small victories. To be honest, not many of us will experience overnight success, for the majority, the process takes longer and requires more effort. That is the way of life. The most important thing to remember is that delay is not denial. Opportunity and chance happen to all, your time will come!

Grace Mavunga

EDITOR & DESIGNER-IN-CHIEF



Nancy Anataba Kyorku Dzikunu-Bansah is a Civil Engineer specialised in Geotechnical Engineering. She is the founder of Uppa Ghana Limited a Civil Engineering company established in 2015 that specialises in consulting, construction, and soil laboratory services. She started the firm focusing on consultancy and construction only.

Her first client needed the firm to carry out the ground investigation for an irrigation dam project in the upper east region of Ghana. Everything went according to plan, and the fieldwork and sample collection finished in time. However, the firm faced a challenge in obtaining the lab results as the provider took long to provide feedback. In the end, Nancy had one unhappy client who still expected the firm to meet the agreed timelines as per contractual agreement. While she eventually managed to deliver, the experience became a learning curve for her. Quickly she realised that to be successful in delivering results; her firm needed to have control over the whole process from start to finish. So she added the soil laboratory service wing to the firm's portfolio, and today Uppa Ghana Limited offers the service to other contractors in the market.

Above
Anataba Kyorku

Geotechnical Engineering has a huge influence on sustainability of civil engineering projects, and this is due to its early position in the construction process. It is also the most resource intensive discipline within the profession.



The firm is currently working towards establishing and operating a mobile laboratory to enable the sample testing to be done onsite. This will help shorten the time between the collection and analysis of samples and also cut down on transportation cost of samples needing transportation. Uppa Ghana Limited is also striving towards becoming a centre of excellence when it comes to research through collaborating with tertiary institutions in developing tailored solutions for the sustainability of projects.

Nancy is a member of the Ghana Institution of Engineers and a Civil Engineering graduate. She holds a master's degree in Petroleum Geoscience from the University of Ghana, and in 2018 she was selected as part of the Mandela Washington Fellow under the business and entrepreneurship track at the University of Nevada-Reno. Her career started with an instructor position at the Bolgatanga Polytechnic, Ghana, where she taught geology and soil-related courses for almost three years. During her tenure, she served as the department's representative to the academic board as well as union executive in her capacity as the general secretary and later the vice-chairperson of the Bolgatanga chapter of the Polytechnic Teachers Association of Ghana. In 2011 She left the polytechnic to pursue her master's degree and eventually founded Uppa Ghana Limited upon completion.



Nancy hopes to see more women choosing career paths in STEM, particularly engineering so that they too can make their mark in this predominantly male industry. Giving back to the community is close to her heart; currently, she is doing this by supporting women through various mentoring and grooming initiatives. When she is not in the field, she likes to read, travel, bake and spend time with family.

Practice Good Hand Hygiene

Source: World Health Organization



Wet your hands before applying soap



Rub soap all over your palms, the backs of your hands, and in between your fingers



Do this process for at least 20 seconds before rinsing



Wipe your hands with a clean towel or paper towel and void rubbing too vigourously.

Together we can beat COVID-19

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.

THE AFRICAN YOUTH

An Untapped Resource

by Maureen Nyasha Hove
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“Just the right drilling machinery and excavators will lead you straight to a belt of gold. The gold you saw on the surface, there is more to where it came from! Our youths are loaded and gifted! Hope you realize it sooner!”

Millions of ounces of unmined riches are still believed to lie beneath the piles of the earth surface. Numerous occupants sit atop some of the world’s vastest mineral deposits. Large areas in Africa still hold substantial reserves of gold, uranium and other highly valuable minerals, unfortunately, remain inaccessible to exploration. While avant-garde technology has improved mining techniques, workers continue to lack the knowledge and skills to optimize the exploration process.

The lack of advanced technology and know-how only permits the miners to be restricted to surface mining. Some even call it quits thinking they have exhausted all the minerals albeit there is still more! Just the right excavators and drilling machinery would take them straight down to it!

On the 12th of August, we were observing the International Youth Day driven by the theme “Youth Engagement for Global Action” which sought to accentuate ways in which the engagement and participation of young people at all levels are augmenting and beneficial to any country or organization.

How many youths do you know around you with so much potential but are not living to their maximum potential? Some don’t even realize their worth and are in the oblivion of what they carry or are capable of because they have been incapacitated by circumstances. Some have been told that they will not amount to anything and will die like that or they had very big dreams that were crushed by circumstances beyond their control.

A country with at least sixty per cent of its population constituting of youths should deem itself heavily laden with novel ideas and innovations. Collectively, the youths offer a dynamic and remugient workforce and have a high affinity for technological know-how and the aptitude to take on a significant level of risk. Youth engagement in development issues still doesn't tally with population statistics.

The youths need to be assimilated and incorporated to guarantee achievements for future generations.

Full representation and engagement in all areas undoubtedly have to be significantly enhanced for the purpose of bolstering their capacity and relevance.

Most of the youth have a purpose and are talented in various ways. Only a small fraction are fortuitous enough to discover it very early, and some will discover it a bit late. The rest are there to water and enrichen the graveyards with untapped potential.

Young people are therefore a key group for sustainable development; however, they rarely receive the education or support they need to feel confident and a voice to audibly speak out to impact on policies and participate in critical decision making. Youth representation and participation in politics, economy, agriculture, health, Research and Development can be amplified by investing and effecting an appropriate education and opportunities for youth empowerment.

Let's not only be satisfied and content with a few youths making waves let's also work towards delving deep and reaching out and empowering every youth from the urban areas, peri-urban and rural communities.

All young people should have access to information and the proper support to have a part in decision making. They should, therefore, not be overlooked in the developmental processes that take place in their communities. Training sessions with a motive to furnish young people in social responsibility and insight on civil rights are often unpopular in communities. Without financial emancipation, exposure and basic needs to live a fulfilled and decent life, young people won't be in a position to take part in significant policymaking.

Young people need a change of mindset too so that they realize the power of using their voice. Young people have the stamina to make sustainable development a reality if they take a leading role. Gone is the Victorian era when youths were only to be seen and not heard. A generation of information seekers will take us further than we can ever imagine.

International Youth Day

"Youth Engagement for Global Action"



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